Vol. 7. Numb 29.

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, July 5. 1692.

Quest. 1. *A Gentleman of this Town about six months since marry'd a pretty young Woman of about a* 1000 l. *Fortune, near* Leeds *in* Yorkshire; *she about* 10 *days ago, with the assistance of one of her Acquaintance, dress'd her self more than usually fine, pretending she was to go to* Greenwitch *to be merry with some Friends, and by the way to meet with her Husband; she was soon after her going out seen to be taken up in a Coach about* Covent-Garden, *and has not since been heard of. The poor Gentleman her Husband has made all possible inquiry and search after her, and suffers under a very great concern for her absence: Now pray Sirs let us know what you think is become of her, whether in safety, how diverted, and when she may return, with what else may relate to the satisfaction of the poor man; and also if he ought not to receive her again if she return?*

Answ. 'Tis an Elopement, and he may have some remedy perhaps by Law, without revenging himself by Man-slaughter upon the provocation, but it is in his own Breast whether he will be reconciled unto her: And if there should be occasion to sell her to him with whom she has Eloped, there is a Form, or an Instrument in Writing ready drawn up for that Case, to be found in *Cook's Second Institutes.* 'Tis not to be question'd but she is out of the noise of the Town, diverted as she designed, and as safe as if she were in Bed with her Husband, and to print the Case describe the Persons, and disperse the Papers, is the best way in all likelihood the sooner to hear of her.

Quest. 2. *Why the Black Sea is Fresh water, and the Euxine Sea and the Streights of* Davis, Hudson, Forbisher, *&c. are salt?*

Answ. It has many Islands at the mouth of it, that it takes not in that quantity of water from the Main Ocean, but receives more from the many Fresh water Rivers which discharge themselves into it, from *Poland, Russia* and *Swedeland.*

Quest. 3. *In* Greenland *upon the top of a Hill, there is the Body of a Tree lyes, how should that Tree come there, since the Countrey affords none?*

Answ. Those who have penetrated fartheſt into that Countrey, or that have been left there, have not been able to discover any Trees, yet notwithstanding one part of it may produce what another wants; or this Tree might be found floating in the Sea, and be carried up and left, to raise wonder in the after-comers, as *Alexander* left Gygantick Armour behind him, that the World might in time to come wonder at the vast Stature of the *Macedonians*, or as they paint the heads of the *Saracens*, as if they were Gyants, to cover the ill success they had in conquering *Jerusalem.*

Quest. 4. *Why do Cocks lay Eggs?*

Answ. We doubt the Fact, and therefore 'tis yet in vain to seek for a Reason. Its true, we have seen those which the *Countrey people* call *Cocks eggs*, being a little larger than a *Pidgeons*, shap'd like a hens, having no *Yolk*, as others have: But did not make so nice an *observation* concerning it as we shou'd have done, and will agen if we have ever another opportunity.

Quest. 5. *What did* Virgil *mean by his* magni menses, *Ecl.* 4. Plutarch *indeed makes mention of the* μεγάλος ἐνιαυτὸς, *but that gives no light to the Question:* Scaliger *has also given a large account of them in Can.* Hagog. *but neither is that satisfactory enough?*

Answ. If *Scaliger* himself can't satisfie the Querist, 'twill be no disgrace shou'd we too fail of doing it, howe're we must attempt at it. By *magni menses* we think the Poet may allude to those μεγάλος ἐνιαυτὸς, those *great years* of the *Platonists*, for he was now describing that great *Revolution* which they used so much to talk of, when all things were to become *new.* But why then does he use the word *menses* instead of *anni, months* instead of *years?* No doubt there was a reason, for one who had so absolute a command of the Latin Tongue, cou'd not do it only to fill up a Verse. We believe therefore that there's a double allusion contain'd in the words, one to the *Years*, or revolving period before mention'd, the other to those *Months* which *Julius* and *Augustus* had lately alter'd and call'd by their *own Names*, for which reason they might properly be call'd *magni* above all the rest.

Quest. 6. *What is that which we call Broken-winded in a Horse? and whence does that Ail proceed?*

Answ. An Experiment made upon a Dog, in Phylosophical Transactions, makes it probable that some Defect in the Tone of the Diaphragme concurrs towards this interrupted Respiration, and not solely from an Ulcer in the Lungs; for that two Horses who many Years laboured under this Broken-winded Noise, were Opened, whose Lungs were free from any Ulcer, yet the Pipes of them were perfectly stopt with *Pus*, neither could it be perceiv'd what part afforded the Pus.

Quest. 7. Gent. *In your Essay upon Learning, page 7th. concerning Salvation of Heathens, you advance in answer to that Text,* (There is no Name given under Heaven, whereby we may be saved, but by the Name of the Lord Jesus) *That if they believe in God, they believe virtually in Jesus Christ: I desire a full Explanation of what you mean by a virtual Belief?*

Answ. The Jews were under the Dispensation of believing *Our Father which is in Heaven*, having Faith in the *Messia*, whereas the Heathens were under the dispensation of the Law of Nature, the Divine Light written in every Man, which is the ordinary Voice of the Spirit to restrain man from Murder, Idolatry, *&c.* if they kept to that Law, they should receive the full Vertue of the Lamb of God, slain before the Foundation of this World, by the Fathers Decree, for the Sins of all Men.

Quest. 8. *In your Essay on Learning, page* 9. 10. *in your treating on the Mathematicks, you promise to give us Instances of what hath been performed by the assistance of that Art, and you bring as Instances the wooden Eagle, and the Iron Fly, and the Burning Glass of* Anastasius Dicorus: *I desire to be satisfied, whether you believe these to have been as you represent them, really performed?*

Answ. The Hawk, the Butterflies, and other small Birds that were made to flye about the Room, about 15 years ago, at the House in *Holbourn*, where was represented the Creation, leave no room to doubt of those in the Question.

Quest. 9. *What Reason can be given, why the Organ of* Cornelius Van Drebble, *which you instance in your Essay,* p. 11. *should particularly make an excellent Symphony it self if set in the Sun in the open Air, and not to make it, tho set in the open Air if the Sun did not shine?*

Answ. The Sun heating of it had more power to dispose its parts, than the Air without that Power.

Quest. 10. *Which do you esteem the greatest Artists in* Painting, *the Ancients or the Moderns?*

Answ. The Ancients were almost inimitable for some Excellencies and Beauties in their Painting, and some Moderns have not fallen much short of them, unless we fancy as some do of the old Poets, that none can yet equal them.

Quest. 11. *Where and when were Dials, Clocks and Watches first made?*

Answ

Anſw. In *Adams* time the day was meaſured by the Sun, and the *Egyptians* could not be deſtitute of theſe uſeful parts of the Mathematick Learning, long before mention was made of the Dial of *Ahaz*.

Queſt. 12. *I have read the* Viſions of the Soul, *writ in a lofty ſtyle by one of your Society, and I find you diſcourſing on the Pre-exiſtence of the Soul from the Creation: in* Queſtion 2. Numb. 1. *of the Firſt Volume, but both Ænigma's to my weak Capacity: I entreat you therefore to give me a full Explanation what it is the Maintainers of Pre-exiſtence chiefly hold?*

Anſw. That all Souls as a Stock were ready made at firſt, and that one of them Souls is ſent into the Body of an Embrio, but not then Created anew, and when all that Stock of Souls are employed here, then will the World end; but fully to explain all they maintain, cannot conveniently be reduced to a ſhort Anſwer.

Queſt. 13. Vol. 1. Num. 3. Qu. 6. *In Diſcourſing on Witches, you recommend* Glanvil *as fit to be read; it is reported that before his Death he denyed that Story of the Drum of* Tedworth: *Your Thoughts are deſired?*

Anſw. He may be fit to read, notwithſtanding the miſtake of one Paſſage, which at laſt may only be a falſe Report concerning him.

Queſt. 14. *How or where can you prove there was Shipping before* Noah? *as you affirm* Vol. 1. N. 4. Q. 1.

Anſw. Adam was driven out at the Eaſt-end, where was free Paſſage, he had no *Boat to paſs the Rivers* in the other part of the Garden, and therefore ſo neceſſary a thing as a Junk or a Canooe *Adam* would not be without, or can it be imagined that in ſo many hundreds of years they could be without Veſſels to paſs and repaſs their Rivers.

Queſt. 15. *If the Manners of Nurſes be imbibed by the Children with their Milk, why do not Ruſticks that feed much upon Cow-Milk, Loo?*

Anſw. Such as our Diet is, ſuch is our Blood, and ſuch is our Fleſh, and ſuch our Temper in part, but Speech is perform'd by apt Organs, and has no dependance upon our Diet for the manner of ſound.

Queſt. 16. *Whether there is any ſuch thing as White Gun-Powder, that will kill without a Noiſe?*

Anſw. Were it Wind only, it would make a Noiſe, therefore there can be no White Powder but muſt make a Noiſe, it being a common Error to conceive otherwiſe.

Queſt. 17. *Why are Women more Talkative than Men?*

Anſw. It can only be meant of ſome Women, and the ſame may be ſaid that ſome Men are more Talkative than Women, and the Reaſon is, that ſome are wiſe and ſome are otherwiſe.

Queſt. 18. *A Gentleman ſome Years ſince having two Daughters at Womens eſtate, marries 'em both to Perſons of Quality, and gives 'em a large Dowry out of his Eſtate; after which being a Widdower, and having a plentiful Eſtate left, he Marries a ſecond Wife, by whom he has one Son living, ſince which it has pleaſed God to bring this Gentleman into a low Condition, he not having now a Competency for himſelf or Family — on which he's deſpiſed by his two Daughters who live in great ſplendor, and forſaken by his Friends almoſt in general, only he's at preſent ſupported by a Gentleman, of whom he did not expect any ſuch Friendſhip, who Promiſes to provide for him and his Family while he lives —— The* Queſtion *on the Caſe is — How this Decay'd Gentleman ought to behave himſelf to his Friend, with whom he now lives, to his two Daughters, their Husbands, and the reſt of his pretended Friends, that he may end his days like a good Chriſtian, and dye in Charity with all the World?*

Anſw. He ought firſt to take care of himſelf, before he deals with them, and to enquire how he behav'd himſelf towards his own Parents? whether he loſt not his remaining Eſtate by his Extravagance or Folly? whether his *Second Match* was not below him, and other things of that Nature, the laſt of which may *mitigate*, tho' not *excuſe* the *Behaviour* of his *Friends* towards him, the reſt he ought to get clear off with Heaven: After this, whether there were or were not any of thoſe Cauſes mentioned for his Relations *ſlighting* and forſaking him, eſpecially his *Daughters*; it's certain they are guilty of inexcuſable *Ingratitude* and *Diſobedience*. Now for his *Behaviour* towards them, he ought to take ſome way to let 'em know their Fault, that they may, if poſſible, be brought to beg his *Bleſſing* and *Pardon* — If they refuſe this, he's yet heartily to *forgive* them, and *Pray God* to do ſo, as ever he himſelf expects *Forgiveneſs*; but we are not ſo ſure he's bound to give 'em his *Bleſſing*, a *Legacy* we think only due to *Obedient Children*, or at leaſt only with a *ſuppoſition* of their *Repentance*. For his other *cold Friends*, his beſt way will be to ſlight and forgive 'em — and for that *true, faſt, only Benefactor* under Heaven, he's to pay him, next to the *Original Giver*, all the *Gratitude* and *Bleſſings* he's capable of, which is all he has now to give him; and if he does thus, we think he'll end his dayes as he deſires, like an honeſt Man and a good Chriſtian.

*** The Ladies Queſtions will be Anſwer'd next *Saturday*.

☞ *THE COMPLEAT LIBRARY* for *June* will be Publiſh'd to morrow Morning, containing an Hiſtorical Account of Books, and ſeveral Original Pieces. Printed for *John Dunton* at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*.

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